

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8467

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CNO WASHDC

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

COMSEVENTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4857

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, AS

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS OF AUSTRALIA AND KANGAROO II

REF: A. AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 4763/010714Z JUL 76

1. FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM
DEFENCE CANBERRA: QUOTE

"EXERCISE KANGAROO TWO

1. A REQUEST FROM THE USN FOR CERTAIN NPW TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE EXERCISE COULD BE FAVOURABLY RECEIVED.

2. AS AT PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA IS THE
ONLY STATE GOVERNMENT TO APPROVE THE RESUMPTION OF VISITS,
SHIPS COULD VISIT THAT STATE IN CONNECTION WITH THE
EXERCISE. DUE TO LOGISTIC CONSTRAINTS, THE FOLLOWING PORT
ARRANGEMENTS ONLY ARE POSSIBLE.

A. ENTERPRISE TO GAGE ROADS. THE ANCHORAGE IS
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APPROXIMATELY 2.5 MILES OUTSIDE FREMANTLE HARBOUR.

B. LONG BEACH PLUS ONE SSN TO ALONGSIDE BERTHS
IN COCKBURN SOUND.

3. IN THE EVENT THAT THE ANCHORAGE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE
A VISIT BY MIDWAY IN LIEU OF ENTERPRISE SHOULD BE PROPOSED.
MIDWAY COULD VISIT ANY STATE.

4. ANY OF THE ABOVE PORT VISITS COULD BE ACCOMMODATED
EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE EXERCISE, BUT IF TO W.A.
PREFERABLY AFTER THE EXERCISE DUE TO WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS.

5. YOU WILL BE ADVISED IF ANY OTHER STATE MEANWHILE
APPROVES NPW VISITS." UNQUOTE.

2. AUSTRALIAN DOD REPRESENTATIVES EMPHASIZED THAT DEFENCE
MINISTER KILLEN'S PERSONAL VIEWS ARE REFLECTED IN THIS
MESSAGE AND THAT HE STRONGLY FAVORS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION
IN KANGAROO II. KILLEN HOPES TO RECEIVE A RESPONSE FROM
US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENT. THE EMBASSY HAS TWO PROBLEMS WITH THIS
PROPOSAL. FIRST, WE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO ASSESS
WHETHER PORT VISITS BY ENTERPRISE AND OTHER NPW'S DURING
KANGAROO II WILL CAUSE TOO MANY SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS
HERE UNTIL THE SNOOK AND TRUXTUN VISITS HAVE TAKEN PLACE.
SECOND, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO HAVE
PORT ACCESS FOR THE NPW'S PARTICIPATING IN KANGAROO II
LIMITED TO COCKBURN SOUND AND GAGE ROADS. THIS COULD
CREATE A PRECEDENT IN WHICH FUTURE ACCESS TO EAST
COAST PORTS BY NPW'S COULD BE RESTRICTED. FOR THESE
REASONS THE RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN PARA 8 REFTTEL
REPRESENTS MY BEST JUDGMENT AT THIS TIME ON HOW TO
HANDLE NPW'S ASSOCIATED WITH KANGAROO II. HARGROVE

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